

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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P R 310341Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1407

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4223

EA FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN

CINCPAC FOR PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN NEWS ROUNDUP - TUESDAY, JULY 31

1. TIME DIFFERENCE PRECLUDED COMMENT ON WHITLAM DISCUSSIONS AND PRESS CONFERENCE IN THIS MORNING'S AUSTRALIAN PAPERS. ALL CORRESPONDENTS REPORTED FAVORABLY ON EXPANSION OF WHITLAM APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY ON INVITATION FROM SECRETARY AND MRS. ROGERS TO PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. WHITLAM, AMBASSADORS GREEN AND PLIMSOLL FOR PRIVATE TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION, AND ON ADDITION OF MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT.

2. SEVERAL PAPERS (E.G., "AUSTRALIAN") AND RADIO REPORTS NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR GREEN, WHO FLEW TO WASHINGTON FOR VISIT, AND AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL WOULD ATTEND WHITE HOUSE DISCUSSION WITH KISSINGER WHICH WOULD BE INCREASED TO FULL HOUR DURATION PRIOR TO SESSION WITH PRESIDENT.

3. REPORTING FOR ABC CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM AM FROM WASHINGTON, PETER BARNETT DESCRIBED WHITLAM SPEECH TO NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AS "EXTREMELY BLUNT" AND CASTING DOUBTS ON EFFICACY OF SEATO WHILE PRAISING ROLE OF ANZUS IN PACIFIC REGION. AUDIENCE
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ATTENTIVE AND RESPONSIVE SAID BARNETT.

4. "CANBERRA TIMES" CORRESPONDENT DAVID SOLOMON REPORTS NUMEROUS ADDITIONS MADE TO WHITLAM SCHEDULE MEAN HE IS GETTING MORE TIME WITH PRESIDENT AND OFFICIALS THAN LIBERAL PREDECESSORS WERE ACCUSTOMED TO RECEIVING.

5. LAURIE OAKES IN "MELBOURNE SUN" REPORTED PRIME MINISTER GAVE US CREDIT FOR FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES MADE BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. QUOTING FROM ADVANCE PRESS CLUB SPEECH HE SAID "PRESIDENT NIXON'S INITIATIVES HAVE CREATED A NEW REALITY FOR OUR REGION."

6. ANTICIPATE MORE EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY ON WHITLAM VISIT IN EVENING PAPERS JULY 31 AND MORNING PRESS AUGUST 1.

7. MOST PAPERS FEATURED REPORT TODAY THAT AUSTRALIAN ARMY IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE DISCHARGE OF NEARLY TWO THOUSAND NATIONAL SERVICEMEN IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. COST SAVING IS ADVANCED AS REASON FOR REDUCING STRENGTH TO AUTHORIZED 31 THOUSAND MEN. HARROP

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